



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PRESS RELEASE

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### **Connecticut Strawberry Crop: Late but Great**

**Hartford, CT**—Connecticut farmers are expecting an exceptional crop of strawberries this year, thanks in large part to the abundant spring rains.

Although the wet weather delayed ripening, the berries are large, juicy, sweet, and plentiful. Nearly two and a half million pounds are anticipated from the approximately 200 acres of Connecticut farmland growing strawberries this season.

Pick-your-own (PYO) berry farms around the state expect to be in full swing by the third weekend in June, just in time for Father's Day. Strawberry availability usually lasts about five weeks.

Fresh-picked local strawberries are such a prized delicacy, many groups and organizations hold entire festivals dedicated to the beloved red berry. Families plan day-long outings to pick berries, bring them home, and turn them into special salads, entrees, and desserts enjoyed only at this time of year.

"Berry picking is a fantastic, fun family activity," says F. Philip Prelli, Commissioner of Agriculture. "It can be enjoyed by every member of the family."

For a listing of PYO farms in the state, please visit the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's website at [www.ct.gov/doag/](http://www.ct.gov/doag/) (click on "Publications" then "Pick-Your-Own") or send a business-sized self-addressed envelope with 39 cents postage to **The Connecticut Department of Agriculture PYO Brochure, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.** Please remember to call ahead for availability and hours before heading to the farm.

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